
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 1996

Domestic primary aluminum production in October was 303,988 metric tons. The average daily production rate was 9,806 tons, slightly higher than that of the previous month, and 5% above the rate for October 1995.

The monthly average U.S. spot or market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased from 66.88 cents per pound in September to 64.39 cents per pound in October, according to *Platt's Metals Week*. According to *American Metal Market*, the published buying price range for processed aluminum used beverage can (UBC) scrap held steady at 48 to 49 cents per pound in October. According to *Resource Recycling's Container Recycling Report*, the monthly average transaction price for aluminum UBC's was 48.7 cents per pound.

U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption of aluminum for the first 9 months of 1996 decreased approximately 11% compared with those for the same period in 1995. Imports were lower in all

three subcategories; however, the largest decrease appeared in the plate, sheet, bars, etc. category. Imports of semifabricated aluminum products were about one-fourth lower than those for the same period in 1995. Total imports from Russia during the first 9 months of 1996 were also lower than those of the previous year, about one-third below the level of imports for the comparable period in 1995.

Total U.S. exports of aluminum for the first 9 months of 1996 also decreased and were approximately 8% below those for the first three quarters of 1995.

Update

The monthly average spot or market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to 69.01 cents per pound in November. On November 26, the buying price for aluminum UBC scrap increased 5 cents per pound to a range of 53 to 54 cents per pound, and remained at this level through the end of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery 2/			Imports for consumption			Total new supply 3/	Total stocks end of period 4/
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
1995: 5/	3,375	1,680	1,510	3,190	1,930	622	2,560	9,120	2,000
1995:									
October	289	141	130	271	137	38	175	735	1,980
November	285	130	123	253	139	46	185	723	1,970
December	299	132	115	247	133	33	166	712	2,000
Jan. - Oct.	2,791	1,450	1,350	2,800	1,660	542	2,200	7,790	1,980
1996:									
January	301	143	123	266	158	36	194	762	1,990
February	283	148	117	265	150	37	187	735	2,030
March	303	151	125	276	148	43	191	769	2,010
April	293	151	134	285	188	41	229	807	2,020
May	303	152	136	287	176	42	217	808	1,960
June	293	145	122	267	169	40	210	769	1,940 r/
July	301	145	130	274	139	45	184	760	1,960
August	302	143	137	280	149	45	194	777	1,910
September	292	144	131	274 r/	136	43	179	746	1,990
October	304	155	136	292	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jan. - Oct.	2,977	1,480	1,290	2,770	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

3/ Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

4/ Includes scrap; data from Current Industrial Reports, Series M33D, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

5/ Includes monthly and annual data.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery
1995: 2/	1,430	1,150	1,400	1,240	743	687	113	99	12	11	3,690	3,190
1995:												
October	114	94	115	102 r/	70	64	11	9	1	1	310	271
November	114	94	105	93	62	57	9	7	1	1	290	253
December	114	94	102	90	57	52	11	9	1	1	284	247
Jan. - Oct.	1,140	942	1,190	1,060	755	695	103	91	12	12	3,200	2,800
1996:												
January	124	101	114	102	59	55	10	9	1	1	308	266
February	123	100	111	99	62	57	9	8	1	1	305	265
March	123	100	120	107	67	62	8	7	1	1	318	276
April	124	101	132	117	63	58	9	9	1	1	329	285
May	124	101	129	114	69	63	9	8	1	1	331	287
June	124	101	108	96	66	61	9	8	1	1	308	267
July	124	101	110	97	73	67	9	8	1	1	317	274
August	125	101	123	109	66	61	9	8	1	1	324	280
September	125	101	110	98	73	67	9	8	1	1	317	274 r/
October	125	101	125	111	76	71	9	8	1	1	336	292
Jan. - Oct.	1,240	1,010	1,180	1,050	675	622	89	81	9	9	3,190	2,770

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes monthly and annual data.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN OCTOBER 1996 1/

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	104,000	125,000	84,700	101,000
Integrated aluminum companies	125,000	125,000	111,000	111,000
Independent mill fabricators	63,600	76,300	58,800	70,500
Foundries	7,190	8,630	6,570	7,880
Other consumers	626	752	626	752
Total	301,000	336,000	262,000	292,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN
OCTOBER 1996 1/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening	Net receipts 2/	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Solids	20,400 r/	81,300	79,600	22,100
Can stock clippings	2,960	34,000	31,000	5,990
Other clippings	6,550	10,800	10,700	6,610
Borings and turnings	4,620 r/	18,100	18,300	4,440
Dross and skimmings	3,610	17,100	17,100	3,610
Total new scrap	38,100 r/	161,000	157,000	42,700
Old scrap:				
Used casting, sheet, and clippings	22,800 r/	58,800	58,800	22,800
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,040	975	970	1,050
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	33,400 r/	76,400	78,200	31,600
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	W	W	W	W
Other	975	4,830	4,830	975
Total old scrap	58,200 r/	141,000	143,000	56,400
Sweated pig	2,760	1,100	1,130	2,720
Total all classes	99,000 r/	303,000	301,000	102,000

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other."

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS
IN THE UNITED STATES IN OCTOBER 1996 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing
Die cast alloys:				
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,200 r/	4,740	4,370	3,580
380 and variations	13,200	39,900	39,700	13,400
Sand and permanent mold:				
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	13,000	1,090	1,080	13,000
No. 319 and variations	3,510 r/	6,690	6,830	3,360
F-132 alloy and variations	1,850	2,450	2,450	1,850
Al-Zn alloys	490	183	183	490
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	96	211	211	96
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	63	77	77	63
Other 3/	3,190 r/	3,320	4,330	2,190
Wrought alloys:				
Extrusion billets	4,870	14,600	14,800	4,660
Total all alloys	43,500 r/	73,300	74,000	42,700
Less:				
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	2,940	XX	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	6,030	XX	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	384	XX	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot 4/	XX	63,900	XX	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum scrap.

4/ No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 1996 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	Sept.	Jan. - Sept. 2/	Sept.	Jan. - Sept. 2/	Sept.	Jan. - Sept. 2/	Sept.	Jan. - Sept. 2/
Argentina	600	737	13	652	--	2,540	613	3,930
Australia	140	853	130	1,560	55	986	325	3,400
Bahrain	--	--	400	7,780	--	--	400	7,780
Belgium	2	922	422	4,250	--	80	424	5,250
Bosnia and Herzegovina	--	--	--	44	--	--	--	44
Brazil	--	8,420	19	391	--	415	19	9,220
Canada	102,000	995,000	26,900	218,000	20,700	167,000	150,000	1,380,000
Croatia	--	--	106	1,030	--	--	106	1,030
Czech Republic	--	--	6	11	--	--	6	11
France	14	917	394	6,930	270	2,540	678	10,400
Germany	10	1,060	2,540	20,300	145	6,020	2,700	27,400
Ghana	--	--	--	--	--	369	--	369
Hungary	--	--	141	1,230	--	--	141	1,230
Italy	4	25	183	9,190	--	62	187	9,280
Japan	18	243	922	8,010	60	208	999	8,460
Kazakstan	--	18	--	--	--	--	--	18
Korea, Republic of	--	16	22	340	--	--	22	356
Mexico	--	616	1,400	9,650	5,630	57,500	7,030	67,700
Netherlands	1	393	376	3,210	217	683	595	4,280
Norway	88	413	61	3,450	--	--	149	3,860
Russia	23,500	284,000	1,180	8,510	75	8,260	24,800	300,000
Slovakia	--	369	--	--	--	--	--	369
Slovenia	--	--	249	2,390	--	--	249	2,390
South Africa	--	2,290	447	2,540	69	123	516	4,960
Spain	--	107	2,030	14,300	--	--	2,030	14,500
Sweden	--	(3/)	207	2,210	93	807	300	3,020
Switzerland	1,890	1,900	171	2,070	--	700	2,060	4,670
Tajikistan	2,540	17,900	--	--	--	--	2,540	17,900
Ukraine	--	2,970	8	8	--	--	8	2,980
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	98	893	98	893
United Kingdom	831	1,950	1,400	13,100	1,240	10,100	3,470	25,100
Venezuela	3,440	87,700	2,200	21,800	1,090	18,700	6,730	128,000
Other	463	3,550	1,010	9,950	3,300	25,000	4,780	38,500
Total	136,000	1,410,000	43,000	373,000	33,000	303,000	212,000	2,090,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes revised data from previous months.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 1996 1/

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	Sept.	Jan. - Sept. 2/	Sept.	Jan. - Sept. 2/	Sept.	Jan. - Sept. 2/	Sept.	Jan. - Sept. 2/
Armenia	--	--	--	23	--	--	--	23
Australia	97	579	96	2,400	--	7	193	2,990
Belgium	--	65	1,490	11,300	--	35	1,490	11,400
Brazil	27	61	1,860	15,000	1	129	1,890	15,200
Canada	10,200	92,700	32,500	266,000	5,440	44,900	48,200	403,000
China	226	510	1,890	19,900	3,260	25,500	5,380	45,900
Czech Republic	--	--	--	3	--	18	--	20
Dominican Republic	--	2	101	1,540	18	39	118	1,580
France	6	331	304	2,460	--	3	310	2,790
Germany	50	286	2,280	16,300	--	167	2,330	16,700
Hong Kong	442	1,880	527	10,900	3,700	34,100	4,670	46,900
India	--	12	22	146	101	490	123	648
Israel	--	43	74	1,660	26	38	100	1,740
Italy	1	33	197	2,180	--	39	199	2,250
Japan	10,600	153,000	2,680	22,800	4,320	42,600	17,600	219,000
Korea, Republic of	1,770	15,900	1,030	15,600	3,130	29,300	5,940	60,800
Latvia	--	--	--	33	--	--	--	33
Malaysia	(3/)	599	55	2,090	41	363	96	3,050
Mexico	4,920	32,800	9,460	79,400	1,440	12,300	15,800	125,000
Netherlands	61	410	102	1,280	--	284	163	1,970
Russia	--	15	--	1	--	--	--	16
Saudi Arabia	--	32	1,340	16,600	--	--	1,340	16,600
Singapore	3	118	104	2,400	--	1	107	2,520
Slovenia	--	--	18	36	--	--	18	36
Spain	--	31	167	1,520	79	1,090	245	2,640
Sweden	--	313	16	278	--	23	16	614
Taiwan	762	6,730	368	10,500	3,340	37,900	4,470	55,100
Thailand	325	5,410	131	3,300	--	725	456	9,430
Ukraine	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
United Kingdom	195	533	1,440	15,700	(3/)	12,700	1,640	28,900
Venezuela	--	45	720	8,350	--	376	720	8,770
Other	500	4,390	5,690	43,300	452	6,130	6,640	53,800
Total	30,200	317,000	64,700	573,000	25,400	249,000	120,000	1,140,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes revised data from previous months.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.